



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
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BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter February 12, 2017

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



A United Methodist Rule of Life: Doing Good
John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, organized Christians into small groups for accountability and spiritual formation. This was part of the success of early Methodism as these early Methodists found the power of transformation through holy friendships with other Christians. Wesley gave rules to these societies to help them live out their faith openly to one another and to others in their community. Those rules were: 1) do no harm; 2) do good; and 3) attend upon all the ordinances of God.

In today's article, I would like to talk to you about the second of those three general rules. By "doing good of every possible sort," early Methodists became known as kind and generous. They cared for the sick, gave food to the hungry, clothed the naked and visited those in prison. We carry on many of those activities as disciples of Jesus Christ today in the United Methodist Church. Our church does a lot of good for the world around us from our Food Pantry, to the Gardens on the Bluff, to wells in India with NeverThirst, to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and Easter Love Gift that assists people in their need.

To do all the good that we can to others, we bear the love of Christ to the world and thus demonstrate that God is good. God's aim is for us to demonstrate the way we should be treating one another all the time if we would only live under His lordship and see one another with His eyes. We don't see another in need of simple help, but another in need of sacrificial love.



Winners for Chili, Cornbread and Cookies 2017

CHILI - 1st - Charles Prueter
2nd - Rachel Shultz
3rd - David and Clayton Marshall

CORNBREAD - Sarah Miller

COOKIES - 1st - Gavin Davidson
2nd - Ronda Carlisle
3rd - The Holly Family

News of the Week

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

For centuries, Christians have begun a forty day season of spiritual preparation for Easter by observing a holy Lenten season. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year begins on March 1, 2017. For forty days (not counting Easter), we spend time dealing with the reality of our lives and contemplating the ways we separate ourselves from God. The hope lies at the end of Lent - where we find that Jesus defeats death and sin and allows us the opportunity to renew our faith. During this Lenten season, we will provide weekly prayers, daily Scripture readings and other ideas for spiritual disciplines. We hope that for this season of Lent, you will join us on this journey!

LENTEN STUDIES COMING IN MARCH

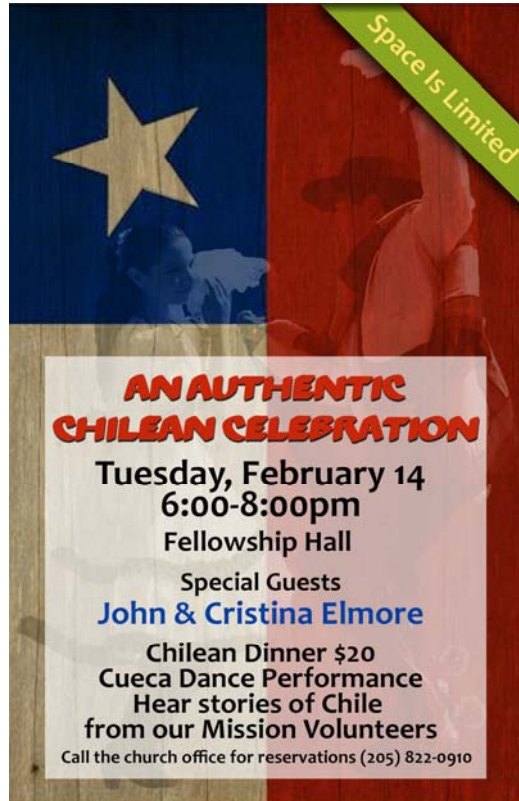
Beginning March 8th and running through April 12th, two Lenten studies will be offered. *On the Road to the Cross* by Rob Burkett will be taught during the Pastor's Bible Study at 4:30pm on Wednesday afternoons. This class will be taught by Mike Holly and Angela Martin in room 268. *Restored: Finding Redemption In Our Mess* by Tom Berlin will be taught on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. This class will be taught by Angela Martin in room 140. There is a book for this class so if you plan to participate, kindly email amartin@bpumc.org so that enough books can be purchased.

SERVERS NEEDED FOR MID-WEEK MEALS

We need servers for our mid-week meal for 4th Wednesdays of the month. Meal service begins at 5:00 pm and runs to 6:30pm. If you can volunteer your service for this ministry of hospitality email Angela at amartin@bpumc.org.

LOVING OUR LGBTQ NEIGHBORS

Join a discussion about loving our neighbors and what that means specifically for understanding and loving our neighbors who are LGBTQ. This 4-week study meets Wednesdays in February at 6:00pm in the Faith Classroom. Speakers during this study include Rev. Mike Holly, Kathryn Coltrane, Angela Stowe, PhD, Director of Student Counseling Services and Wellness Promotion at UAB, member of Alabama Safe Schools Coalition and Highlands UMC, Dr. Morissa Ladinsky, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at UAB/Children's Hospital, Brett Vebber, Chaplain at Children's Hospital of Alabama, and Rev. Emily Freeman Penfield and members from Woodlawn UMC.



TRAVEL TO ISRAEL IN 2018

We are planning a trip to Israel in early 2018. The dates are January 30–February 8. There are options available that could extend those dates should you choose. An information meeting will be held on Sunday, February 12th at 10:00am in the library. If you attended the previous meeting, you do not need to attend this one. If you can't attend either meeting contact Tom Duley at 822-0910 ext. 112 or tduley@bpumc.org for more information.

MAINTENANCE CREW

The Maintenance Crew meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 8:30am to work around the church. All retirees, and/or soon to be retirees, or anyone willing to help around the church are welcome. You do not need a special skill, just a willingness to help in any way you can. Come when you can and enjoy the fellowship while helping to defray the costs of maintaining the buildings and grounds of the church. May God continue to bless Bluff Park UMC as we strive to be a beacon of hope to our community and world as we share the love of Christ. J.B. Thrasher jbrare5@yahoo.com.

2017 ALTAR FLOWERS

There are dates left on the 2017 Flower Calendar. Please sign up to remember a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. One arrangement is \$50.00; both \$100.00. We have two arrangements each Sunday. Dates available include: February 19, 26, and March 12, 18, and 26. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

ROCK-A-THON 2017

Rock-A-Thon 2017 benefitting the McCoy Adult Day Care. Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 10:00am to 12 noon at St. Mark UMC. Entertainment, Food, Fellowship - and rocking! If you would like to donate, make checks payable to MADC (all contributions are tax deductible.) If you would like to participate, see Rev. Angela for a Sponsor Form.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The Worship Committee will be Meeting on Sunday, February 19th, at 3:00pm in the library.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Linda Bailey—UAB West
Shirley White—Grandview

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

MISSION/FIELD TRIP: Our next mission trip/field trip will be on Presidents Day, February 20th. We will be working on a Bargains on the Bluff appreciation project in the morning, eating a pizza lunch, and then going bowling in the afternoon. Drop off will begin at 7:30 and pickup will be at the church between 4:30 and 5:30. Please RSVP with Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org as soon as possible as we only have 26 spots available.

4TH/5TH GRADE RETREAT: We would love to take a group of 4th and 5th graders to Exit 456 at Camp Sumatanga again this year! This retreat is scheduled for Friday, March 17th (we would leave at 4:30) and Saturday, March 18th (we would return between 4:30-5:00). It is a one night retreat full of fun, food, worship, and speakers. The cost for the retreat includes lodging at Camp Sumatanga, 3 meals, all snacks, and a T-shirt. The cost is \$75 per child and we need to know who is going by Wednesday, February 15th. We do have scholarships for anyone who would like to attend but is unable to pay the fee. Please email Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org as soon as possible if your child would like to attend as we only have 26 spots available!

MIDWEEK MEETUP: Midweek Meetup happens every Wednesday night from 5:00-7:30. The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, Bible Study/Classroom time, and more.

Our church is currently participating in a Scripture Reading Challenge to begin the new year, and we want the children to be involved! So, each week of Midweek Meetup, we will give the children a slip of paper with a Bible story on it at the end of the night. If they return the following week and the person signing them in lets us know that they read that Bible story (in any Bible they choose suited for their age!), they receive a prize that night. If they read all the Bible stories during the winter/spring, they will receive a special grand prize at our end of the school year water slide party. Will you accept the challenge?!?!?!?

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Preschool Sunday School lesson will be on "The Good Samaritan" and the Elementary Sunday School lesson will be on "Jesus and the Ten Lepers."

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: The lesson this week will be on "Jesus Feeds the 5000."

STUDENT MINISTRY

MIDWEEK MINISTRIES - FEBRUARY - THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PIXAR As always, students are welcome to bring their meals down to the youth wing and visit with friends, play games, do homework or just relax. Small groups will meet at 6:00pm with Holy Ground worship at 6:30pm. Our theme is the Gospel According to Pixar with a different movie-related message each week. Our monthly guest speaker will be Andrew Holder on the 15th.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH - ANTI-VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY After Snack Supper, we will head down to the Youth Wing, for games (like our annual contest for the worst breakup text), worship and great relationship advice from young couples in our church. We'll end the party by breaking open a heart-shaped piñata!

DUGOUT MINISTRY We already have over forty members of our congregation ready to participate in this new program. Each participant will get a card in a few weeks with the name, face and some basic info on a student whom they can pray for and encourage throughout the year. If you'd like to be part of the Dugout but missed signing up last Sunday, don't worry. We'll have signup sheets out again this week.

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING WINTER SCHEDULE. There's so much going on as we enter 2017: Holy Ground Worship, Discovery Weekend and more. You can keep track of things via your smartphone or tablet by going to your app store and downloading our free app. Just search the key words Youth Wing to find it.

SAVE THESE DATES Tuesday, February 28th, 2017: *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser*, Friday-Sunday, June 9-11, 2017: *Whitewater Express Summer Trip*, Sunday-Saturday, July 2-8, 2017: *Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip*. (Contact Kathryn Davis kdavis@bpumc.org if you have any issues.)

THIS WEEK

Sunday, Feb 12, 10:00am
Sunday, Feb 12, 12:30pm
Sunday, Feb 12, 4:00pm
Sunday, Feb 12, 5:00pm
Tuesday, Feb 14, 7:00pm
Wednesday, Feb 15, 4:30pm
Wednesday, Feb 15, 6:00pm
Wednesday, Feb 15, 6:30pm

NO Sunday School (join us for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall)
Youth Council Meeting
Confirmation Class & Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Free Snack Supper & Anti-Valentine's Day Party
HS Girls Small Group at Dover Home
Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Girls, Guys & Coed Small Groups
Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Shane Miller, Manager, Piggly Wiggly - General Grocery Store operations

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

OUTING - Lunch at The Shrimp Basket on Green Springs Highway and a Bargain Hunt

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Dr. Ray Thweatt - How to make the most of your visit to the doctor.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Riverchase Community Gospel Choir.

SPECIAL MOMENT WITH JESUS

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112
John Carl Hastings, jchastings@bpumc.org, ext. 120

Director of Student Ministries, ext. 118

Bart Styes, barts@bpumc.org

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Stanley Davidson, sdavidson@bpumc.org

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Jason McCrory, jmccrory@bpumc.org

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Director of Worship Music,

Lonnie Parsons

Organist,

Jay Tumminello, jtumminello@bpumc.org

Preschool Director,

Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org

Facilities Manager,

Chad Malcolm, cmalcolm@bpumc.org



The Week of February 12—18

Sunday, February 12

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
Scout Sunday
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Israel Trip Meeting
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
4:00 pm Confirmation Class
5:00 pm Gospel of Mark Study

Monday, February 13

10:00 am Prayer Shawl

Tuesday, February 14

8:30 am Maintenance
9:30 am Covenant Bible Study
6:00 pm Chilean Celebration Dinner
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

Wednesday, February 15

9:30 am Gospel of Mark
4:30 pm Pastors Bible Study
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:45 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Hospitality Class
6:00 pm Half Truths
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Youth Small Groups
6:30 pm Gospel of Luke
6:30 pm Walk/Run with Laura Ann Pitts
6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Holy Ground Worship

Thursday, February 16

9:30 am Shepherd's Center
6:30 pm Finance Committee

Saturday, February 18

8:00 am Gardens on the Bluff Backup
Work Day

SUNDAY, February 12, 2017

8:45 and 11:00am Morning Worship

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Rev. Angela Martin

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Adams 11:00 Alley

Cross

8:45 Lena Holly 11:00 Mary Lynn Williamson

Acolyte

8:45 Lily Matheson 11:00 Rebecca Rice

Greeters: Faith Builders

Meal on Wheels: Betsy Britain

Food Pantry March 1st:

Summers/McCrary

Midweek Meetup February 15th: Valentine's Party. Menu - Meatloaf, scallop potatoes, green peas, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Corn dogs for the kids.

Last Week's Record

February 5, 2017

Children/Youth	99/74
Morning Worship	509
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$26,162.50
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$163,272.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$126,308.25
New Members in 2017	6

10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2017–December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621.00
Received Last Week	\$1,925.00
Received to Date	\$174,665.33

**Provisional figures pending approval of 2017 budget.*

**BLUFF PARK UNITED
METHODIST COLUMBARIUM**
Information Sheets in Narthex and Church
Office

BPUMC FOOD PANTRY

1st Wednesday each month

We are serving 200+ families a month.

We appreciate all donations!

VALET PARKING

Every Sunday morning! Drive to the covered entrance near the nursery and Fellowship Hall.